

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NIC-01 DRC-01 /121 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1957

INFO USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06451

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, WB, UK, FR, UR, US

SUBJECT: RUDOLF HESS

REF: (A) BONN 6323; (B) STATE 80827

1. UK CALLED SPECIAL TRIPARTITE MEETING APRIL 23 TO PRESENT URGENTLY FCO INSTRUCTION REGARDING HESS. UK REP (CROMARTIE) CONFIRMED THAT QUEEN HAS RECEIVED LETTER FROM PRESIDENT HEINEMANN IDENTICAL TO THAT RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT, AND SAID THAT, BECAUSE OF PUBLIC AND PARLIAMENTARY CONCERN IN UK AND BECAUSE HEINEMANN LETTERS MAY BECOME PUBLIC, THE UK STRONGLY FAVORS A FRESH TRIPARTITE APPROACH TO SOVIETS - PERHAPS BY ALLIED AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW - REQUESTING THAT HESS BE RELEASED. FUNDAMENTAL UK DESIRE, CROMARTIE SAID, IS TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE PUBLICLY THAT THE THREE ALLIES HAVE MADE APPROACH TO SOVIETS AND THAT HESS'S CONTINUED CONFINEMENT IS DUE TO MOSCOW'S INTRANSIGENCE. TEXT
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OF DEMARCHE, WHICH WOULD BEST BE MADE ON APRIL 26 -

HESS'S 80TH BIRTHDAY, WOULD REFER BOTH TO HEINEMANN LETTERS AND TO 80TH BIRTHDAY, AND "SINCE APPROACH WOULD BE MADE MAINLY FOR THE RECORD" AN AIDE MEMOIRE WOULD BE DESIRABLE.

2. FRENCH REP (DE BOISSIEU) SAID THAT HEINEMANN LETTER - WITHOUT BEING ADDRESSED TO ANYONE - HAD BEEN PASSED BY FRG AMBASSADOR IN PARIS TO JOBERT, AND THAT FRENCH, WHILE NOT PUSHING FOR DEMARCHE TO SOVIETS, COULD GO ALONG. BOISSIEU ADDED THAT SINCE REPLY TO APPROACH WOULD CERTAINLY BE NEGATIVE, WE SHOULD CONSIDER USING OCCASION OF SOVIET REFUSAL TO REQUEST SOME IMPROVEMENTS IN HESS'S CONDITIONS, E.G., IMPROVEMENT IN VISITING ARRANGEMENTS.

3. U.S. REP RESTATED PREFERRED U.S. LINE AS CONTAINED REFTTEL AND SAID HE WOULD REPORT OTHERS' VIEWS TO AUTHORITIES. HE ADDED THAT, IN ANY EVENT, IT SEEMED UNLIKELY THAT WASHINGTON WOULD AGREE TO APPROACH AT LEVEL UK SUGGESTED - THE THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS IN MOSCOW. RATHER, SINCE EARLIER TRIPARTITE APPROACHES HAD BEEN BY ALLIED AMBASSADORS IN BONN IN LETTER FORM TO SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN, AND ON ONE OCCASION UK AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW HAD SEEN USSR DEPUTY FONMIN ON BEHALF OF THE THREE, EITHER OF THESE PRECEDENTS WOULD SEEM TO HAVE BETTER CHANCE OF FINDING U.S. ACCEPTANCE.

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: GIVEN HEINEMANN LETTER, STRONG UK DESIRE, AND FRENCH WILLINGNESS, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALSO AGREE TO TRIPARTITE APPROACH TO SOVIETS, BUT AT A MORE APPROPRIATE LEVEL AS MENTIONED ABOVE IN PARA 3. IF DEPARTMENT AGREES, BONN GROUP WILL URGENTLY PREPARE TEXT FOR CONSIDERATION BY CAPITALS AND EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE REDRAFT OF REPLY TO HEINEMANN LETTER FOR CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON. PARTICULARLY SINCE AT THAT POINT THERE WOULD BE NO REAL COST TO ALLIES, WE ALSO SEE SOME MERIT IN FOLLOWING UP ON FRENCH REP'S IDEA NOTED PARA 2 ABOVE.

HILLENBRAND
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